



We are entering the budget season and all departments are making requests for capital and operating needs to the Finance Department. Tony Winney and I are sitting in the budget meetings so we can work with every department to understand your needs and help brainstorm ideas about how we can be more efficient and effective with our resources. I want to remind everyone that balancing the budget is our first [Strategic Plan](#) goal and anything that can be done to help achieve that goal is greatly appreciated. We will be asking

employees to offer suggestions during the month of March so start thinking about ideas for creating revenue or saving money for our city.

March Forward

Last night at the City Council meeting we previewed our outreach and citizen engagement efforts during the month of March. In addition to asking our employees about budget balancing ideas, we will be hosting events and conducting surveys throughout the month of March for all citizens. See attached flyer that is going to be sent to every address in National City next week and feel free to participate in any of the events or surveys you are interested in. The Mayor will host her 2nd State of the City Address on March 5th at 6pm in MLK and there will be a family friendly community celebration in Pepper Park on March 29 at 11am. See the [flyer](#) for more information.



Commercial Cannabis Direction

Also at the City Council meeting last night, staff received direction to move forward on commercial cannabis in National City. The direction was to prepare an ordinance and permitting process for allowing up to 6 locations in the city west of Interstate 5. We expect to start accepting permit applications this year and will require businesses to enter into a “development agreement” that allows

the city to generate needed revenue for the general fund and put conditions on the operators to enhance safety, equity, and community benefit.

Plant a Tree in National City

As part of the CalFire's Urban & Forestry Grant, the City is required to plant 1,700 trees citywide. Up to date, we've planted 694 trees in city parks, the golf course, and other areas in the public right of way. The Community is invited to help us plant an additional 230 trees on Arbor Day, Saturday, March 28th. Sign up [here](#).

Car Seat Inspection at Fire Station #34

AMR will hold monthly child [car seat inspections](#) beginning Monday March 2nd at Fire Station #34 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. AMR's team of certified car seat inspectors will install child car seats free of charge and will also conduct safety checks to ensure car seats are installed correctly.

Mayor's New Executive Assistant



Nancy Valdivia-Ochoa is a long time resident of neighboring District 8 and active in the community. She was the Outstanding Graduating Senior at San Diego State University in Chicana and Chicano Studies and is currently on the planning committee for the 50th year celebration. She is an active member and mentor of MANA de San Diego for the past 6 Years. Graduate of the Latina Success Leadership Program with the Center of Creative Leadership and also the Boards and Commission leadership training with Mid-City CAN. Fun Fact: She ran her first half marathon in Mexico City in November 2019. Please contact her for scheduling requests, recognitions and other business

dealings in the Mayor's office. Her contact information is (619) 336-4284 and email nvaldiviaochoa@nationalcityca.gov. Please introduce yourself and make her feel welcome.